

Arnold JOHNSON

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Our mystery person for September has lived all his life in Heber City and his Church membership has always been in the Heber 1st Ward. His father was a contractor and built many of the houses in Heber. He would help his father by doing the laf work. As a youth he would visit the Indian Reservation with the Hy Jones family. They would hunt and fish each day. One day he went on a horse-back ride all day and the next day he could not move off the couch. They would also attend the dances while they were there. He said the farmers would come by with the hayrack and gather the different families together to go to the dances. He can also recall from his visits to this area the Indian fights over moonshine.

In 1911, the first car came to Heber City. In 1915 he went to work for Pikes Peak Garage. His responsibility was to take care of the horses in the livery stable. They had 16 horses they would rent to people. That same year more cars started to appear in Heber. People did not drive their cars in winter so Pikes Peak built a storage garage next to the stable. Our mystery person was responsible for the cars. He worked for 42 years at Pikes Peak and then went into his own mechanic business until 1975, when he retired because of health reasons. At one time shortly after World War I, he did go to work for Utah Power and Light for \$8.00 a day but missed working with cars and soon returned to Pikes Peak.

This brother knew his future wife, Nellie Davis, for quite some time before they were married. One day she invited him to the ranch for a chicken dinner. She said there would be other couples joining them so he thought he was suppose to bring a date and did so. When he arrived he realized he was to be her date. About a year later they were married. A son and three daughters blessed this home. They had been happily married for 36 years when Nellie took a stroke and was dead within twenty minutes. He later married Delores McDonald. She died in 1980, after 27½ happy years of marriage.

Our mystery person has served his Heavenly Father in a very unselfish manner. He has generously given his time and talent to the building of the Kingdom. He was required to work every other Sunday at Pikes Peak but that never hindered his work in the Church. One Sunday when Stake Conference was being held, he was at work when a friend stopped by to tell him he had been presented as 2nd Counselor to Bishop Joseph Olpin of the Heber 1st Ward. He had not been interviewed nor had any inkling of this calling and here the Stake membership knew first. He was not too acquainted with Bishop Olpin so he asked him why he was chosen to be his counselor. Bishop Olpin told him he was chosen because of his tithing records. This man has always paid his tithing and knows and teaches this great principle every chance he gets. He can remember during the Great Depression how the Church had to help many people but to his knowledge the Heber 1st Ward did not have to help one full tithe payer. This has always been a testimony to him of the importance of paying a full tithe. He served with Bishop Olpin for 13 years and then served as 1st Counselor to Bishop Heber Rasband for 11 years. He saw many great changes occur in the Church and Ward during that time. After being released, he was called to be 2nd Counselor to the High Priest Quorum for 6½ years.

This good brother will be 87 years old on January 16, 1984. He attends Church regularly and keeps an immaculate home and yard. His posterity includes 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Our mystery brother is a great example to all who know him and to those who don't we urge you to get acquainted. He is a very special person.
